

with both the Senate and the President, it is important that the House be able to act immediately on the floor to consider any rule that deals with providing funds for the urgent matter of expired appropriations. I urge adoption of House Resolution 265.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEILENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] for yielding me the customary 30 minutes of debate time.

Mr. Speaker, we do not object to this rule. We think it is reasonable, as we did in the past when our Republican colleagues supported our requests to waive the two-thirds vote requirement. Of course, we should not even be in a position of debating it tonight. The only reason it is necessary for us to do so is that the Republican controlled Congress has been unable to do its most basic job, and that is to pass appropriations bills. That is why we are here considering this waiver of a standing rule of the House.

The public is wondering what we are doing, as they should. The arguments we will be considering in the context of the next resolution over such a controversial provision as how to reach a balanced budget should be taking place in the context of the budget reconciliation bill, legislation which the House and Senate have in fact already passed.

There is no need to encumber the continuing resolution with this extraneous provision which will be considered where it should be, in the conference report on budget reconciliation, which should be before us on Friday.

We ought to do now what we could have done last week, pass a continuing appropriations measure that is clean and straightforward. The gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. OBEY, the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations, has attempted several times to gain unanimous consent to bring his legislation to the floor for that purpose but unfortunately has repeatedly been denied that request.

We repeat, we Democrats remain willing and ready to expedite in a reasonable and responsible manner the business of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS].

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Time is of the essence with this. Federal workers have been sitting home the last couple of days. They want to resume their jobs. They want to continue on with governing, which is what this is all about. For Members who believe we should get our Government back up and operating, this rule makes sense. This is urgent legislation, as my colleague noted earlier in his remarks. This is one of the few times we would

waive this rule, but I think that we can get a bipartisan yes to this rule and hopefully to the resolution that will follow.

As I said before, Federal employees want to return to work. They are eager to get on with their business. Many employees, even if they are with funded agencies at this point or are deemed essential employees under the law, are still unable in many cases to perform their work because of other limitations in procurement and hiring and firing that take place because we do not have continuing resolutions in effect. So, should the rule come forward and this resolution be passed and sent to the President, all of this will be resolved should the President sign it.

I think the subsequent resolution is something that the President should sign. The continuing resolution will make sense for several reasons. First of all, the funding levels contained here are adequate for the Federal Government and the District of Columbia government to continue for the next 18 days. There is no dip in the funding that will cut education, that will cut the environmental programs for 18 days and that should hinder that. It is certainly better than what we are being funded today.

Second, it will get our Federal employees back working tomorrow. Third, it strips the Medicare and other riders that the President and the administration have deemed superfluous and have said are unacceptable. We have taken those out.

Finally, it mutually, mutually commits the Congress, both the House and the Senate, and the President to balance the Federal budget with CBO numbers over the next 7 years. This should be no problem for this Congress or Members of both sides of the aisle who have professed to stand for this and for the President who on numerous occasions has said he is for a balanced budget and accepts CBO numbers.

I rise in support of this rule and the subsequent resolution.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 122, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-343) on the resolution (H. Res. 270) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 122) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 122, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 270 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 270

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 122) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes. The joint resolution shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit without or without instructions. The motion to recommit may include instructions only if offered by the Minority Leader or his designee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for consideration in the House without intervening points of order of the joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1996 through December 5, 1995. The rule provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations and further provides that the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

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The motion to recommit may include instructions only if offered by the minority leader or his designee.

Mr. Speaker, this continuing resolution is not the legislation that will bring us a balanced budget in 7 years. However, the political confrontation that has preoccupied this city and the national media, if not all Americans for the last few days, has been about one simple, but fundamental issue—balancing the budget.

The continuing resolution we will consider this evening will fund the Government for 20 days. Taken alone,